

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting -- Wednesday August 10, 7:30PM, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Attendees: Eliza Burden, John Ellis, Mary Ellen Aronow, Ed Tremblay, Susan Stamps, Eric Ammondson, Mike Rademacher (DPW), Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden), Mara Vatz (visitor).

1. Approve July meeting minutes

Vote was DELAYED; further input would be provided on the July minutes prior to a vote for approval.

2. DPW Tree Department Update

General update (Tim): tree watering and pruning is ongoing.

Tree planting: Tim will forward list of spring plantings once it has been cleaned up for distribution. Tim anticipates approximately 100 bare root trees for fall planting.

Off-berm planting: Tim reported he and Mike are working on guidelines for possible off berm planting if tree strips are not available. It is thought the Town would provide trees to be planted by others in these instances.

DPW outreach: Tim provided a draft handout to be distributed to households making tree requests prior to tree plantings in order to help ensure residents agree to accept and care for the trees.

Scannell Field planting: Tim will use the planting list provided by ATC to propose to Parks & Rec 10 larger shade trees to be planted in the green area behind the stands and along the bike path.

Park Circle planting: Eliza reported that replacement shade trees could be planted in the outer circle. There is still room for additional fruit trees to be planted in the inner circle. Eliza will reach out to Russ Cohen, an interested neighbor.

Mass Ave. corridor plantings: Mike is working with the state for a resolution of the improperly planted trees.

Bylaw follow-up: Susan informed the committee the public response period for the bylaw runs for 90 days, until September. Tim will work with ISD on instituting the policy once the bylaw takes effect. Mary Ellen is working on a handout for ISD. There will also be a link on the ATC and DPW websites.

3. Tree Inventory – (John E.)

John noted the Plow Route 12 inventory is nearly completed with assistance from 10-12 volunteers. John requires assistance in managing the project and will submit a grant application of \$15,000 (Town must match the amount of the grant award) to DCR to provide funding to assist in hiring interns for next summer. The Open Tree Map software has a \$150/monthly license fee. The initial trial period ends in November. Mary Ellen and Eliza will meet with John to discuss next steps.

4. Town Day (September 17)

Volunteers are needed to staff the ATC booth. Ed will provide the tent and Eliza will bring a table. Possible topics to be featured include the tree inventory, tree bylaw, invasive pests including winter moths, gypsy moths and emerald ash borer. Tim noted he has been looking for signs of the emerald ash borer and has not seen any evidence yet.

5. Publicity/Outreach

FB/Website/Email: No discussion.

Google Groups: No discussion.

6. Membership, Committee Roles, Responsibilities and Tenure

Visitor Mara Vatz introduced herself and indicated she may be interested in seeking membership on the committee.

7. New Business

Green Communities Grant: Mike informed the committee this grant is used to fund energy savings projects involving equipment upgrades and would probably not be available for tree plantings.

8. Correspondence received:

Eliza noted several negative letters were received regarding the Magnolia Park tree removal. Eliza counseled the committee that going forward we should emphasize the fact that the plans for the new park will include over 20 new trees, as was explained to us by the Parks and Rec committee. Susan noted that Town counsel stated town parks are under the jurisdiction of Parks & Rec and they typically do not need to seek approval from other Town bodies.

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. September 14, 7:30 pm.